population over 500 are yet to be provided with letter box facility as on 31-3-94. The target is to cover these villages in the current year. In other areas, letter boxes are being provided in central locations, including Railway Stations and S. T. Stands, in pursuance of the stated principles, except for these cases where density of population, public requirements or objection by civil authorities warrant relaxation of these norms.

Tender for Telecom Service

1940. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the press a decision has been taken to prohibit public sector telecommunications agencies, operating under the auspices of both the Union and State Governments from participating in the tenders about to be floated for telecommunications services;

(b) if so, the rationale for taking such a decision; and

(c) the likely consequences for the domestic communications industry on account of Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Due to resource constraints under the new Telecom Policy the work of expansion and upgradation of the telecom facilities in the country is envisaged to be supplemented by the private sector. In the case of public sector, it is felt that resource prioritisation demands that the concentrate in their respective areas of operations with a view to optimising both the utilisation of the scarce resources of the Government as well as their performance in the areas assigned to them.

Computerisation of Post Offices in the Country

1941. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to computerise the Post Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Post Offices that have been computerised so far;

(c) whether any target date has been fixed to computerise all the Post Offices in the country;

(d) if so, the details therof; and

(e) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Department's programme of modernising the postal service during the current year lays emphasis on improving counter services and front office activities in Post Offices. This is being achieved through computer based counter machines which provide all postal services including savings bank functions, through a single window and ensure speedy, efficient and responsive service to the customer.

(b) About 510 Post Offices in different parts of the country have been provided with computer based counter machines so far.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. During the current Plan period computer based counter machines are being provided selectively to the more important and busy Post Offices where introduction of these machines will help to improve the efficiency of service to the customer. With the availibility of resources, a total of 5000 computer based counter machines are planned for introduction during the VIIIth Plan period. More than 1000 counter machines have been installed in different Post Offices.

More than 800 more counter machines are in different stages of installation in Post Offices all over the country.

Proposal to set up Modern Telephone Exchanges

1942. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some modern telephone exchanges during Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the number of Modern Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up and actually set-up so far; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 8th five year plan of the DOT envisages addition of 93 lakh lines of net switching capacity. The actual number of the telephone exchanges to be set up is a function of technology registered demand etc. The location-wise expansion programme is planned on year to year basis depending on the availability of exchange capacity and other resources. Upto 31-10-94 34,537 lakh net Sw. Capacity has been provided.

(c) The state wise addition of switching capacity during 9th five year plan period and achievement during 1-4-94 to 31-10-94 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise addition of switching capacity during the 9th Five year Plan period and achievement during 1-4-94- *to* 31-10-94

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Net Sw. capacity to be added during 8th plan	Achievement during 1-4-92 to 31-10-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	648284	233205
2.	Assam	74547	38555
3.	Bihar	127368	113635
4.	Gujarat	794586	255649
5.	Haryana	290612	104648
6.	Himachal Pradesh	71110	39115
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	53214	15592
8.	Karnataka	599556	249073
9.	Kerala	492341	197862
10.	Madhya Pradesh	402767	288270
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa & MTNL Mumbai)	2036556	636201
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya)	31635	28125
13.	Orissa	61574	68341
14.	Punjab	499997	144032
15.	Rajasthan	417947	190678
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	777358	258664
17.	Uttar Pradesh	530707	218238
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim & Calcutta)	220015	113828
19.	Delhi	1141800	260050
	TOTAL :	9271974	3453761

दूरसंचार नियमन प्राधिकरण

1943. **श्री सुन्दरसिंह भंडारी** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या प्रस्तावित दूरसंचार नियमन प्राधिकरण की स्वायत्तशासी निकाय का स्वरूप दिया जायेगा;

(ख) दूरसंचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी में समन्वय स्थापित करने हेतु क्या विशेष उपाय किये जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या उसके परिणामस्वरूप बढ़ती हुई शिकायतों के मामलों को नियंत्रित किया जायेगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो किस सीमा तक ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) प्रस्तावित दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण के गठन पर सरकार सक्रिय रूप से विचार कर रही है।

(ख) विभाग में, डाइरेक्टरी पूछताछ, दोष मरम्मत सेवा, व्यावसायिक सेवा और बिल तैयार करने के क्षेत्रों में कम्प्यूटरीकरण पर जोर दिया जा रहा है।

(ग) और (घ) आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी के शुभारम्भ से टेलीफोन शिकायतों की दर में कमी आई है। तथापि, कम्प्यूटरी करण से इसके और भी कम होने की आशा है।

Telephone on Demand

1944. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to provide telephone on demand ;

(b) if so, the year by which it would be possible ;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to expedite the process so that the above objective would be achieved ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.